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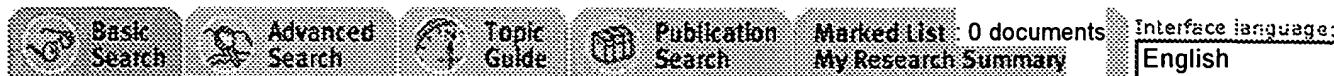
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Windchill 2.0

<u>Robert Mills</u>. **Computer - Aided Engineering**. Cleveland: <u>Mar 1999</u>.Vol.18, Iss. 3; pg. 22, 3 pgs

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Subjects:	<u>Workflow software</u>, <u>Product introduction</u>, <u>Product data management</u>, <u>World Wide Web</u>, <u>CAD</u>, <u>Product development</u>
Classification Codes	<u>5240 Software & systems</u>, <u>9120 Product specific treatment</u>, <u>8302 Software & computer services industry</u>, <u>9190 US</u>
Locations:	<u>US</u>
Companies:	<u>Parametric Technology Corp</u>(Ticker:<u>PMTC</u>)
Author(s):	<u>Robert Mills</u>
Publication title:	<u>Computer - Aided Engineering</u>. Cleveland: <u>Mar 1999</u>. Vol. 18, Iss. 3; pg. 22, 3 pgs
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ISSN/ISBN:	07333536
ProQuest document ID:	39526888
Text Word Count	1178
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Abstract (Document Summary)

Windchill 2.0 from ⓒParametric Technology Corp. features new workflow management functions and improvements in areas such as baselining, effectivity, multilevel bill of material, and net change identification. Windchill consists of three major components: 1. Windchill Foundation, the core of the system, supports the Web model of distribution across autonomous systems. 2. Windchill Lifecycle Application Suite are applications developed by PTC to address product and process management. 3. Windchill Information Modeler is a rapid application development environment, providing tools used to capture knowledge and generate software for the Windchill Foundation and Lifecycle Application Suite. The company says it focused on adding workflow since it is required throughout the product and process life cycle. Other new features include: 1. a universal client, which allows the data to be accessed widely and which ease maintenance of the entire system, 2. a central search engine, and 3. hyperlinks. Timberjack is a global designer and manufacturer of forestry machines. The company is banking on Windchill to help it improve its operations across the board.

Full Text (1178 words)

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Windchill 2.0 from ⓒParametric Technology Corp. (PTC) features new workflow management functions and improvements in areas such as baselining, effectivity, multilevel bill of material (BOM), and net change identification. Though the software is typically classified as product data management (PDM), PTC calls it "a product and process lifecycle management solution." (At press time, the company announced it would add visualization capabilities to Windchill via its acquisition of Division, a maker of viewing and markup software. See PTC to Acquire Division, pg. 16.)

Windchill consists of three major components:

1 Windchill Foundation, the core of the system, supports the Web model of distribution across autonomous systems. It includes the new workflow capabilities in addition to document management, life-cycle management, and vaulting.

2 Windchill Lifecycle Application Suite are applications developed by PTC to address product and process management. The first application introduced is Windchill PDM; applications for component and supplier management (CSM), process planning, and enterprise product modeling are planned.

3 Windchill Information Modeler is a rapid application development (RAD) environment, providing tools used to capture knowledge and generate software for the Windchill Foundation and Lifecycle Application Suite. It includes Rational Rose and Symantec Visual Cafe for application developing and building Javabased, Web-centric systems.

4 These tools are used by PTC, its system integration partners, and by end user companies.

5 Workflow is part of Windchill Foundation and is integrated with Windchill PDM. The company says it focused on adding workflow since it's required throughout the product and process life cycle. Workflow ensures a process is followed and is automatically managed. It also makes sure a task and the required data and applications for performing the task are delivered to the appropriate participant at the right time.

6 The workflow capabilities allow companies to automate document review/release, change management, and processes product information management. "This capability allows our customers to improve their competitive advantage by continuously improving their processes. The automation of repetitive business processes can provide large productivity leaps and improvements in quality," PTC says.

7 Other new features include:

8 Effectivity, which provides the ability to indicate when a part is active; it's designed to facilitate the "progressive" definition of a product. Date, lot number, and serial number effectivities are supported.

Enlarge 200%
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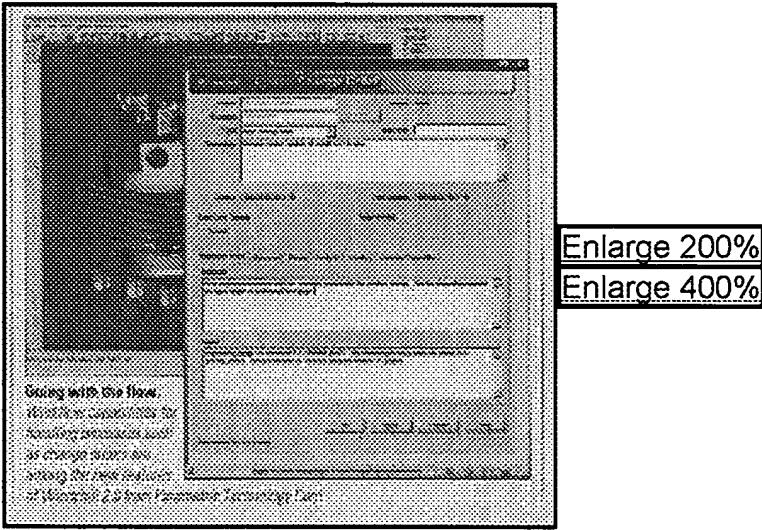
Going with the flow.
Workflow capabilities for handling processes such as change orders are among the new features of Windchill 2.0 from ©Parametric Technology Corp.

9 Multi-level BOM, whereby Windchill PDM creates two kinds of essential HTML reports: a hierarchical report and a summarized parts list.

10 Baseline, which provides a structure baselining feature that allows users to take a snapshot of the precise composition of product structures at arbitrary milestones throughout the product and process life cycle.

/ Net Change, which allows users to compare two product structures to understand how they differ.
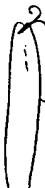
James Heppelmann, senior vice president, Windchill, explains the product uses a Web-centric architecture to allow both "diversity and connectivity" between groups and companies. Traditional PDM systems, he says, use a client/server architecture that, while they may be Web-enabled, still require a homogenous database to be successful. In contrast, Windchill uses the Internet (or extranet) technology to allow data to reside in disparate databases and yet still be connected where needed. Heppelmann cites three keys to Windchill:

A universal client, which allows the data to be accessed widely and which ease maintenance of the entire system. Windchill uses Web browsers and sometimes Java applets for both accessing the data and for administrating the system.

A central search engine that automatically indexes all relevant information, no matter where it is stored.

Hyperlinks, which allow data to be connected and yet maintain its own unique fields, formats, etc.

The software does not yet include integration with Pro/ENGINEER (Pro/E), although two levels of integration with Pro/ENGINEER and CADDS5 are planned. One level of integration will be via gateways between Pro/INTRALINK (the Pro/E data management application) and Windchill and between Optegra (CADDS5 data management system) and Windchill. Pro/INTRALINK Gateway is scheduled for early spring 1999. The Optegra Gateway availability is yet to be determined.

The second level of integration will be with what PTC will call the Enterprise Product Modeling (EPM) application, which the company says unifies the product design environment and Windchill to provide engineering data throughout an enterprise, independent of the CAD application(s) used. EPM solutions supporting Pro/ENGINEER and CADDS5 will be available later this year.

User's View: Timberjack is a global designer and manufacturer of forestry machines. Based in Helsinki, Finland, the firm had 1997 revenues of approximately $600 million. The company is in the process of standardizing on Pro/ENGINEER and implementing Windchill; it has approximately 145 trained Pro/E users worldwide.

Timberjack is banking on Windchill to help it improve its operations across the board: customer service, products, control of material flow, and efficiency as well as facilitate global data interchange, according to Tim Whitlock, manager of system support. "The Windchill architecture is well suited to our business. We are a decentralized, globally distributed organization. Our goal is to build a global enterprise PDM system that includes our suppliers and our customers. We decided to use Internet technology as the foundation for delivering information across the virtual enterprise," he explains.

The implementation effort is being shared by PTC and Timberjack. PTC's Professional Services Organization (PSO) will provide project management and technical resources to complete projects; Timberjack will provide implementation resources representing business functions. Its first phase of implementation of Windchill is slated to be completed in 1999. The system will provide a global part number database as well as global engineering change notice (ECN). Currently, ECNs are handled within each business unit. A pilot program is under way to use the system to manufacture one product in two locations and one new product not yet in production. A document management pilot is also in the works.

Windchill will manage the product structure, according to Whitlock, and will interface with a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system (IFS Applications from Industrial and Financial Systems) being implemented in all manufacturing sites worldwide. Windchill will provide part information and as-designed product structure information and will receive as-built product structure information.

As for the new features in Windchill 2.0, "We see an opportunity for workflow within our organization. We must first understand our inputs and outputs and the life cycle of our products. When these things are understood we will enhance our processes with workflow," Whitlock says. "PTC has been developing functionality very rapidly and we feel fairly confident that most of our required functionality will be in place to support our implementation." -RM

[Sidebar]

Windchill 2.0. Latest release of this software for product and process life-cycle management. What's New: Workflow

management, baselines, netchange, and multi-level BOM. Supports: Windchill Information Modeler Release 2.0 req. Windows NT. Windchill Release 2.0 server supported on Windows NT, Solaris, HP-UX. Windchill Release 2.0 client supported on Windows 95/NT, Solaris, HP-UX, IRIX. Browser support incl. Netscape Navigator .and Microsoft Internet Explorer; Web server support incl. Netscape Enterprise Server and Microsoft Internet Information Server. Req. Oracle 8. Close Competitors: SDRC's Metaphase; Dassault/IBM's ENOVIA VPM. Price: $1,000/named user; RAD is $10,000. ©Parametric Technology Corp., 781-398-5000; www.ptc.com Circle 152

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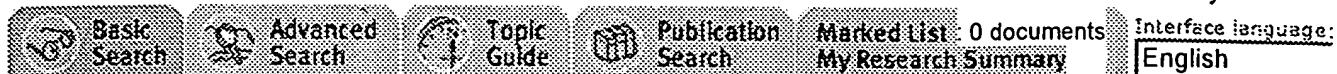
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E-maintenance management

Andrew Marks. **Chain Store Age**. New York: <u>May 2000</u>.Vol.76, Iss. 5; pg. 302, 1 pgs

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Subjects:	<u>Retailing industry</u>, <u>Software</u>, <u>Advantages</u>, <u>Internet</u>, <u>Maintenance management</u>
Classification Codes	<u>8390 Retailing industry</u>, <u>5240 Software & systems</u>, <u>5250 Telecommunications systems & Internet communications</u>, <u>5130 Maintenance management</u>, <u>9190 United States</u>
Locations:	<u>United States</u>, <u>US</u>
Author(s):	<u>Andrew Marks</u>
Document types:	Feature
Publication title:	<u>Chain Store Age</u>. New York: <u>May 2000</u>. Vol. 76, Iss. 5; pg. 302, 1 pgs
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Abstract (Document Summary)

Today, retailers are getting out of the IT business and refocusing on their core business by engaging the Application Service Provider (ASP) software strategy. By partnering with an ASP, retailers can outsource the costs of setting up, supporting and maintaining complex software and hardware systems. Another concept introduced through the Internet is that of community. As opposed to software applications that automate a single function, Internet communities integrate all the functionality necessary to automate the entire workflow associated with specific tasks. The key advantage of ASP and community models is that retailers can now interact on line with their stores, vendors, suppliers and remote personnel without having to sacrifice corporate security or engage expensive technological and human resources.

Full Text (619 words)

[Headnote]
Increased effectiveness is coming to an Internet community near you

As retailers increasingly rely on technology, and as the costs of technology and its support infrastructure continue to climb, the Internet becomes one of the most cost-effective ways to automate operations while reducing the costs and overhead associated with IT. For the last decade, distributed processing has been the technology implementation strategy of choice. Distributed processing puts computing power on the desktop of the user, while the central server stores and manages data for companywide access. This model provided technological independence for end users; however, it increased system costs and reduced ROI by requiring retail organizations to go into the software- and hardwaresupport business on a full-time basis.

Today, retailers are getting out of the IT business and refocusing on their core business by engaging the Application Service Provider (ASP) software strategy. By partnering with an ASP, retailers can outsource the costs of setting up, supporting and maintaining complex software and hardware systems. The hardware costs and software license fees that used to consume significant capital are replaced by monthly usage charges, at a fraction of the cost necessary to bring systems in-house. Companies that used to require hundreds of IS and IT support personnel can now redirect those human-resource dollars back into their core retail business as their ASP bears the cost of supporting the software and related network infrastructure. Since the ASP partners with hundreds or even thousands of retailers, support costs per user are a fraction of what was required for each company to employ its own systems personnel.

Another new technological concept introduced through the Internet is that of the community. As opposed to software applications that automate a single function, Internet communities integrate all the functionality necessary to automate the entire workflow associated with specific tasks. This synthesis of individual software systems means that users no longer need to open as many as a half dozen software applications and refer to numerous hardcopy printouts in order to get their job done.

Maintenance management for stores and facilities, for example, often requires dispatchers to refer to vendor- and service-contract databases in one application, and lease and warranty abstract information in a second application. This process is necessary to provide the dispatcher with sufficient information to use his or her computerized maintenance-management system to prepare and deploy a work order. If parts or equipment are needed, users may have to refer to yet a fourth piece of software, or they may thumb through a supplier's catalog. Yet a fifth piece of technology is summoned when it's time to pay the vendors for parts and services provided. Maintenance, leasing and accounting operations are spread out over numerous departments, each one with its own set of technology tools.

A maintenance-management community integrates vendor management, lease and warranty information, and accounting with work-order deployment and facilities management in a one-stop electronic shop. In addition, the business-to-business e-commerce capabilities of the Internet enable community members to buy parts and supplies on line, receive vendor invoices electronically, and pay vendors using secured electronic-funds transfer. What used to be done in separate maintenance, vendor-management, lease-abstract, and accounts-payable systems can now be done in one electronic environment.

The final key advantage of the ASP and community models is that retailers can now interact on line with their stores, vendors, suppliers and remote personnel without having to sacrifice corporate security or engage expensive technological and human resources. Partnering with an ASP and encouraging maintenance-service providers and suppliers to conduct their business with you at the community results in higher productivity, lower operating costs and significantly improved ROI on every technology dollar invested.

[Author Affiliation]
Andrew Marks is president and CEO of invata international inc., Columbus, Ohio.